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Weobley Rural District

HEREFORDSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

State of the Public Health

For the Year 1945



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Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health	H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.
Acting Medical Officer of Health (Deputy County Medical Officer)	...		I. F. MACKENZIE, M.D. (Edin)., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. (Private Tel., Weobley 59)
Clerk	...	...	B. J. SCANDRETT (On War Service from 1939)
Temporary Clerk	...	...	MISS D. M. J. BRAMFITT
Sanitary Inspector (Part-time)	...	...	EVAN LEWIS, C.R. San. I., Cert. Meat Inspector. (Tel., Weobley 19).

Public Health Office : 4, Church Street, Leominster (Tel., Leom. 95).

To the Chairman and Members of Weobley Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS,

I present herewith the Annual report for the year, 1945.

At time of writing, your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. H. F. GREEN, has happily returned from service with H.M. Forces and resumed duty.

The arrangements which were made on the eve of his departure in 1942 were designed to provide a means for emergency action in the event of outbreaks of disease ; and also to enable the really essential day to day duties of your health department to be carried on by medical officers experienced in public health, without reducing further the then serious shortage of medical manpower. Events have demonstrated that this scheme, which was conceived under difficult circumstances, was sound ; and though more responsibility fell on your Sanitary Inspector, he, being conscious that he had the support and backing of the considerable resources of the County Council Public Health Department and of the Medical Research Council's Laboratory service, shouldered it the more happily. Gratitude is due to him for his creditable response to the additional calls made on him during these last four years.

I. F. MACKENZIE,
Acting Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1946.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres)	49,727
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to the Rate Books ...	1,712
Rateable Value	£18,767
Sum represented by a Penny rate	£85 14 1

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR :

LIVE BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	14.6
STILL-BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 Live and Still births)	21.5
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	12.2
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births)	21.9
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES : No deaths in 1945 were attributable to puerperal or maternal causes.	

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1945 :

Live Birth Rate	16.1
Death Rate	11.4
Infantile Mortality Rate	46.0

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford which is at present under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

CLINICS.

There is none provided by the Authority.

Under a County Council Scheme a Child Welfare Clinic is conducted in Weobley on the first Monday of each month at 2.30 p.m.

The nearest Venereal Disease Clinic is at the County Hospital, Hereford.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SAMPLING.

Weobley Public Supply.—The flow of water at the collecting bed and the storage capacity available continued to be adequate for the needs of the community. Regular sampling is carried out and a close watch is maintained on the bacteriological content of the water.

Other Areas.—Privately owned piped water is supplied in the following villages : Mansel Lacy, King's Pyon (part of), Blakemere (part of), Letton (part of), and Staunton-on-Wye (stand pipe).

The Council maintains small water supplies at Birley, Mansel Gamage and Staunton-on-Wye.

Most of the houses in other parts of the area rely upon Shallow Wells.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No changes have taken place during the year under review. Weobley is the only parish which has a main drainage system.

In Dilwyn village a length of Sewer (about 600 feet) is owned by the Council. It will be incorporated later in the proposed main drainage scheme for the village.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints have been received relating to pollution of water courses.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Provision is made by the local authority for the removal of refuse in Weobley and in the village of Eardisland. The method of disposal is Controlled Tipping. These dumps are used chiefly for the disposal of tins, broken glass and ware.

I am indebted to Mr. Evan Lewis, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement (Sections D to E) furnished under Article 27 (Sub-Section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) regulations.

SECTION D.—SANITARY INSPECTION.

Inspection of premises in the area is continually being made and defects noted. Owners of the property are approached and in most cases there is little difficulty in having the necessary repairs carried out. This co-operation on the part of the community is much appreciated by your officers.

INSPECTIONS UNDER				<i>No. of Inspections</i>	<i>Informal Notices served</i>	<i>Statutory Notices served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Housing Regulations	...	...	...	13	5	—	5
Factories	...	...	...	62	0	0	0
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	160	9	—	9
Hop-pickers' Quarters	...	...	...	60	4	0	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	29	1	—	1
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	55	0	0	0
Schools	...	...	...	12	1	0	1
Water Supplies	...	...	...	96	4	—	4
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	118	0	0	0
Nuisances	...	...	...	30	15	0	15

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases inquired into	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Patients removed to hospital	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Houses disinfected and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Lots of bedding, clothing, etc., disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

HOUSES.

Erected (including 6 Council, Farm Cottages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Made fit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Closed as unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Cleansed and whitewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Overcrowding abated...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

WATER SUPPLY.

Wells sunk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Wells cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Wells closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Samples of water sent for analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56

HOUSE DRAINS.

Laid or re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cleansed, trapped and ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective waste-pipes rectified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Insanitary lavatories, sinks and urinals rectified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dumb wells rectified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

WATER-CLOSETS.

Additional provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Repaired, ventilated or provided with cisterns	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

PRIVIES AND ASHPITS.

Additional privies and ashpits provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Converted to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Converted into pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

SCAVENGING.

Houses from which refuse has been ordered to be removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Privies ordered to be cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Portable receptacles to be cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Removal of offensive refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

In District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Meat and shop Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	214

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

On Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	205
Contraventions of Milk and Dairies Order	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	210

UNSOUND FOOD.

Seizures	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Beef	...	...	8½ lbs.
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Mutton	...	...	18½ „
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Bacon	...	...	15 „
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ham	...	...	2 Tins
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Lunch Meat	...	...	3 „
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Pilchards	...	...	11 „
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Tomato Paste	...	...	17 „
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Sardines	...	...	4 „
Letters written	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Notices outstanding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

SECTION E.—HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	12
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	12

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :							
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1945 there was an outbreak of Measles and Whooping Cough, the former affecting 77 persons and the latter 40. As is usual with Measles, the individuals attacked were mainly in the 1 to 9 age group, but a surprisingly large number of older persons also suffered in this epidemic. Scarlet Fever gave rise to 12 notifications. There were no instances of Diphtheria.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Age of Patient.</i>														
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	Over 40	Unknown	Total
Measles	4	5	2	9	3	10	9	20	3	1	2	3	4	2	77
Whooping Cough	2	3	2	4	4	5	8	7	2	—	2	—	—	1	40
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	—	4	2	2	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	12
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The state of immunisation of the child population of the district at the end of 1944 is indicated in the table below :—

<i>Under 5 years of age</i>		<i>Between 5 and 15 years of age</i>	
<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
188	34.94%	555	51.38%

The unsatisfactory response to the Diphtheria Immunisation scheme which was noted in the report for 1944 continued during 1945. It became clear, however, from enquiries which were made to ascertain the reason for parental indifference, that mothers living in remote cottages experienced difficulty in bringing young children to the clinics even when these were held at the nearest school. The introduction of general practitioners to the Council's scheme may improve the position inasmuch as they can, where necessary, immunise in the home. Proposals to this end will be placed before the council early in 1946.

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1945 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 21 males and 28 females who normally reside within the district.

During the year 19 new cases were notified, 15 on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs. During the same period 5 deaths of persons suffering from this disease occurred.

CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Pulmonary.</i>			<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>			<i>Total.</i>
1939	8	...	7	...	15
1940	10	...	9	...	19
1941	11	...	11	...	22
1942	11	...	17	...	28
1943	13	...	20	...	33
1944	19	...	19	...	38
1945	31	...	18	...	49

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH (ALL AGES)

<i>Disease.</i>							<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Cancer (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	7	11
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
Violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Diseases of Heart and Arteries	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	17	35
Diseases of Digestive System	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	8
Congenital Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2